The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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LABOR'S GOAL!
To Repeal
Taft-Hartley Law

WHOLE NO. 1896 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 1947 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 37, NO. 32

ILGWU to Sign 'No-Strike' Contracts If Employers Agree to Union Safeguards

New York City.—The AFL's International Ladies Garment Workers Union announced its willingness under the Taft-Hartley law to sign contracts containing "no-strike" clauses provided that employers meet certain conditions.

David Dubinsky, ILGWU president, advised local union officials to continue signing "no-strike" agreements where employers agreed to maintain the union shop and to resolve all disputes through arbitration.

He said the union intended to protect itself against damage suits by specifying in all agreements that arbitration machinery would be used to adjust all charges of violation of the agreement, instead of recourse to the courts.

The union will undertake, Mr. Dubinsky declared, to get its members back on the job within 24 hours if an illegal strike occurs. Where the members are defiant, the arbitrator will have the right to declare their jobs vacant. If he decides that the union is at fault or has been derelict in getting the workers to return, he may declare the contract terminated.

As a further measure of protection for itself against charges of contract violation, the union plans to specify the individual local officers with responsibility to act for it, Mr. Dubinsky disclosed. He emphasized that the union's acceptance of no-strike provisions would be confined to plants in which it retained the union shop.

"If our right to the union shop is denied, then we cannot undertake responsibility for the continuity of production in the plant," the union president said.

On the basis of advice from the union's lawyers, he expressed certainty that the Taft-Hartley law would necessitate no changes in the existing form of union shop held by the ILGWU.

He said also he did not believe new elections would be necessary to prove the union's right to renew its union shop contracts, except where employers raised a question as to the union's continued strength.

Although other unions have announced that they will refuse to file certifications that none of their officers are Communists, Mr. Dubinsky said his organizations would not hesitate to make such certifications wherever they might be necessary.

"I consider this provision of the Taft-Hartley law stupid and ineffective, as well as unconstitutional, but we have always prided ourselves on the fact we have cleaned out the Communists and we will leave it to others to challenge this feature of the law," the ILGWU head said.

He advised the local unions to continue demanding inclusion in agreements of demands for unionization of employes hired by contractors and a prohibition on handling of "struck work." He said he did not believe either of these clauses came within the Taft-Hartley law's ban on secondary boycotts.

Green Praises Greek Aid As Promoting Democracy

New York City.—AFL President William Green extolled the establishment of the American mission to Greece as an effort to promote economic, social, and political democracy.

Mr. Green's endorsement of the Truman program for aid to Greece came in a letter to Clinton S. Golden, an official of the CIO's United Steelworkers, congratulating him on his appointment to represent American labor on the staff of the chief of the Greek mission. He said:

"The American Federation of Labor has been constantly and consistently moved by a passion for the realization and establishment of world peace. We are inspired by a sincere desire to extend a full measure of support to President Truman in the realization of this objective.

"Our great labor movement has always been and will always be opposed to the establishment of any form of oppression, tyranny or totalitarian control of people anywhere in any section of the world. The Mission to Greece, of which you are a member, has been created in order to promote this form of economic, social and political philosophy. Realizing the extreme difficult political and economic situations facing the American Mission to Greece, we are pleased to note adequate consideration has been given to the important roll which Greek workers must play if an equitable solution to these problems is realized."

Mr. Golden's appointment was announced at a luncheon in his honor. Speakers at the affair included David Dubinsky and Matthew Woll, AFL vice-presidents, who represented the American Federation of Labor.

NLRB Clarifies Rights of Labor Unions Refusing to File Data Required by Law

Washington, D. C.—Unions, if though they refuse to file the financial data and affidavits required by the Taft-Hartley law, may obtain a hearing before the National Labor Relations Board under certain circumstances.

NLRB officials stated that a union cannot be denied a hearing when it desires to intervene in a case before the board and can show that rights it obtained apart from the law, such as a contract, are challenged by another union. This position has been upheld by the courts even where the contract in question was illegal.

A case in point involved the Consolidated Edison Company of New York, which was accused of an unfair labor practice on the grounds that it gave assistance to a union in violation of the Wagner Act. The union whose authority as legal bargaining agent was under attack was allowed to intervene in the election proceedings brought by the second union against the company.

Hence, although a union has refused to file financial data and non-Communist affidavits, and therefore can file no petitions before the board, it will be allowed to defend the position it has already won. The advantage of this privilege will remain dubious, however, until the board determines whether it will grant the nonfiling union a place on the ballot in a collective bargaining election.

If the nonfiling union won a place on the ballot the board could not certify it as bargaining agent even if it won the election. But the union might gain a moral advantage and persuade the employer to maintain the old relationship and grant a new contract. There is nothing in the law to prevent an employer from recognizing a union which has not been certified by the NLRB, provided no other union has been certified.

CONNECTICUT AFL TESTS TAFT-HARTLEY LAW BAN

Hartford, Conn.—The Connecticut Federation of Labor and a local AFL union joined in the movement to challenge the constitutionality of the Taft-Hartley law by running paid advertisements in a local newspaper urging the defeat of members of Congress who voted for the measure.

The advertisements are intended to test the validity of a section of the law restricting labor organizations from making expenditures in political campaigns.

Federation officials said the validity of the law was being challenged in the expectation that the case would be brought into the courts for eventual determination by the Supreme Court.

ANOTHER NLRB LEGAL AIDE QUITS IN PROTEST AT LAW

New York City.—Alan F. Perl announced his resignation as regional attorney for the National Labor Relations Board, explaining that he was "not in sympathy" with the new Taft-Hartley Act.

This action followed similar steps taken soon after the law's enactment by Gerhard P. Van Arkel, general counsel of the NLRB, and Morris P. Glushien, associate general counsel, both of whom also had expressed doubt about the wisdom of the act.

CALIF. FEDERATION REFUSES SEATING OF RED DELEGATE

Sacramento, Calif.—The California State Federation of Labor refused to seat a duly elected delegate to its annual convention here on a finding that he is a Communist.

Credentials of Virgil Cole, member of the Oroville Carpenters Union, were rejected on grounds that he openly solicited members for the Communist party and adhered to the party line.

Three other delegates were cleared of similar charges, according to James H. Blackburn of Long Beach, chairman of the credentials committee.

Following this announcement the convention received a resolution calling for a vigorous campaign against Communism.

U. S. FARM LABOR HOUSING AVAILABLE FOR FARM CO-OPS

Washington, D. C.—A bill permitting non-profit farm associations to buy housing facilities of the farm labor supply program was signed by President Truman.

The law says the facilities are to continue in use for housing purposes. They have been used for migratory and seasonal labor.

There are 52 permanent and 70 temporary housing camps with accommodations for 69,000 people.

Gallup Poll Shows Voters Oppose Taft-Hartley Act

Princeton, N. J.—The weight of public opinion favors the repeal or revision of the Taft-Hartley law, according to a survey released by the American Institute of Public Opinion, more commonly known as the Gallup Poll.

The majority of voters, who expressed definite opinions on the subject, believe the law is one-sided in favor of employers, and will either have no effect or will increase the number of strikes.

This is eloquent evidence as to the effectiveness of the publicity campaign carried on by the American Federation of Labor to explain the act and to show the effects of its insidious and harmful provisions not only upon labor unions, but upon the general public.

All voters who heard or read about the Taft-Hartley law were asked whether they thought it should be revised, repealed, or left unchanged. Analysis of replies to the question showed 53 percent favored revision or repeal, while only 22 percent wanted the law left unchanged. The remaining 25 percent expressed no opinion.

On the strike issue the question read: "As a result of this law, do you think there will be more strikes during the next three years, or fewer?"

Replies showed that 32 percent of the voters believe the law will have no effect upon the number of strikes or will lead to a greater number. Only 26 percent thought the law would bring about fewer strikes. A larger number, 42 percent, expressed no opinion on the subject.

A breakdown by political parties of replies to a general question concerning over-all approval or disapproval of the law shows the expected heavy Republican opinion in favor of the measure. Of the voters indicating general approval, 53 percent were Republicans, while only 17 percent were Democrats. The 39 percent who disapproved the law were split as follows: 52 percent were Democrats, 22 percent were Republicans.

The results of the survey can rightfully be interpreted as a source of encouragement for labor. However, another point should be kept in mind since it serves as a pointer for labor's future course. The poll showed that only 6 out of 10 voters had ever heard about the Taft-Hartley law.

Labor must make the effort to reach the voters who are ignorant of the consequences of this legislation, or who expressed no opinion on the subject, and win them over to its side in the forthcoming battle for repeal of the law.

Brewster-Hughes Feud on Capitol Hill Reveals Basic Inequity In Tax System

Washington, D. C.—The circus conducted on Capitol Hill by Senators Brewster and Ferguson, et al. turned up an interesting sidelight.

The grilling given "Good Time" John Meyer concerning his lavish expenditure for the entertainment of certain personages has pointed up a basic anomaly in our tax structure. J. A. Livingston, writing for the Washington Post called it a "major loophole, a terrible irony in our tax system."

In brief, Meyer stands for the high living indulged in by business executives at the expense of their workers and stockholders and by the general public.

This is the way it works out. Meyer, for example, leads a life lavishly sprinkled with champagne, steaks, hotel suites, and the kind of trips we all dream of. Who pays the bill? In Meyer's case, Hughes did. In the case of other businessmen who have lavish expense accounts, their companies foot the bill as business expenditures. Thus, those who have an interest in the companies stand to lose to the extent of the amount of the expenses run up by the spenders.

Is that all there is to it? No! Because these business expenditures are considered legitimate expenses, they are non-taxable. This is where John Q. Public takes the rap. Business concerns pay taxes at the rate of 38 percent, while personal income taxes for the high income group run as high as 85 percent. Thus, if these expenditures come out of the high salaries of business executives instead of from corporate funds, the tax yield would be greater for the U. S. Treasury. Since they do not, the taxes for all of the little people are that much greater.

Now, consider the business expense of a plain, ordinary individual. Take a war widow who has to pay someone to look after a child while she works to keep the home fires burning. Is that expense deductible? It is not. It constitutes a living expense which is taxable at the relatively higher personal income tax rates.

The Senate Committee which raised such a fuss should have devoted more time to ironing out this grave injustice in our tax structure and less to looking for a "goat" on which to pin a past sin.

Forms for Labor Union Registration Under Law Released by Labor Dept.

Washington, D. C.—The Labor Department announced the availability of labor organization registration forms for the listing of data concerning the organization and financial conditions of unions as required by the Taft-Hartley law.

Explaining the reason for the forms, which will be made available to all locals and national and international unions as soon as printed copies can be obtained in large numbers, Secretary Schwellenbach said:

"Sections 9 (f) and (g) of the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947 (Public Law No. 101, 80th Congress, 1st session), require that the following information be filed and kept up to date annually with the Secretary of Labor, before the National Labor Relations Board may investigate any representation question raised by the labor organization, or entertain any petition for a union shop election, or issue any complaint pursuant to an unfair labor practice charge filed by a labor organization. This report must be filed not only by any labor organization desiring to raise any such question before the board but also by any national or international labor organization of which such labor organization is an affiliate or constituent part."

To meet the law's requirements for information about the union's financial operations, the form requests a report showing (a) the beginning and closing dates of the union's fiscal year; (b) all receipts of any kind and the sources of such receipts for the fiscal year; (c) total assets and liabilities as of the end of the union's last fiscal year; and (d) disbursements made during such fiscal year, including the purposes for which made.

"The annual financial report prepared by most unions may be used for this purpose as long as such report contains the above information," the Secretary said.

College to Train Labor Arbitrators

South Orange, N. J.—A broad program of labor-relations studies will be inaugurated at Seton Hall College in September, Monsignor James F. Kelly, president, announced.

"The importance of arbitration in labor disputes can no longer be overlooked," said Dr. Frank Wallace Naggi, dean of the department of business administration. "Although emphasis has been placed on voluntary arbitration of disputes since the conclusion of the war, no attention has been given to the training of arbiters. Seton Hall College plans to inaugurate a program to select, train and develop efficient arbiters who will be available to all industries."

Intensive studies of labor relations and legislation, wages and prices, government and labor, collective bargaining and the relation of the recent Taft-Hartley act to the labor movement will form an important part of the course.

OLD-AGE ASSISTANCE DOUBLED IN 10 YEARS

Albany, N. Y.—The cost of old-age assistance in New York State has doubled in the last decade, the Citizens Public Expenditure Survey reported.

The statistical organization placed 1937 expenditures of local, state and Federal funds at $26,200,000 against a 1946 total of $52,700,000.

The increase was attributed to larger allowances and an over-all increase in the case load. The survey said the average monthly allowance had increased from $23 to $50 and the number of recipients had risen 13,277 to 107,730 a month.

BUS MEN UNIONIZED

Alexandria, Va.—Maintenance employes of the Alexandria, Barcroft & Washington Transit Co. recently voted, 68 to 49, to become part of Division 1131, Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes of America (AFL). Prior to the vote the union had represented only the firm's bus operators.

Green Dares GOP To Pick Taft; Predicts Party's 'Worst Defeat'

AFL President Asserts Labor Opposes Taft By 100,000 to 1

San Francisco.—AFL President William Green predicted that Senator Robert A. Taft, if nominated by the Republicans, will "suffer the worst defeat ever handed to any candidate of a major party for the Presidency of the United States."

Mr. Green declared that labor will vote against Taft by 100,000 to 1.

The AFL leader, speaking before the convention of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, issued a challenge to the Republican party to nominate Senator Taft as its presidential candidate so that the nation may have a clear-cut issue in the coming political battle of 1948.

"We are going to wage an all-out campaign in the 1948 elections to elect our friends and defeat our enemies, and no one is going to stop us," Mr. Green told 5,000 delegates and spectators.

"Of course, Senator Taft claims that the rank and file membership of our unions do not support our opposition to the law he sponsored. He seems to think he can gain votes by attacking labor. Well, let's put it to the test."

Mr. Green invited Representative Fred Hartley, co-author of the vicious labor law, to change his mind about his intention of not seeking reelection. He urged Representative Hartley to enter the campaign and promised that "our people in New Jersey will take care of him."

The AFL president recounted the victories of the reactionary forces which have captured tight control of Congress and of many state legislatures. "Their next objective is to take over the White House," he asserted and continued with the warning:

"Please remember that these moves are preliminary to an all-out assault against the organized labor movement and against the whole body of social justice legislation that has been enacted during the last two decades.

"Certain elements of Big Business are now determined to tear down the labor movement, to weaken and destroy it and to render it powerless to protest the interests of the great masses of the nation's workers. In the furtherance of these objectives, they hope to install a Tory regime in our Government."

Mr. Green defended vigorously the free enterprise system which has made America great. He noted, however, that America is "the last fortress" of this system. He drew a parallel between the attitude of the National Association of Manufacturers and the reactionary Tories in England who, by their actions, brought about the eclipse of individual freedom and the introduction of socialist methods of nationalization of banking and industry.

Of the trend of reaction supported and promoted by the NAM, Mr. Green said, "This is the way to foment a class struggle in America which can only end in the destruction of free enterprise and our present way of life."

President Green called upon all labor to fight, and pledged the American Federation of Labor to "concerted action to strike back at the enemies of the workers with every legitimate weapon at our command until the Taft-Hartley Act is repealed and the whole Tory trend is reversed.

"In the coming year, labor must be militant, for it will be fighting for its self-preservation and the protection of the freedoms inherent in the American way of life. Difficult tasks and problems lie ahead. We must meet these boldly, yet with strict self-discipline and with full regard for the public interest. We must work hard, morning, noon and night, to earn a resounding victory for progress. I hope that each one of you will go home from this convention determined and inspired to do your full part toward the achievement of that victory."

CHEMICAL WORKERS UNION ROUTS CIO IN NLRB ELECTION

Portland, Ore.—Local 133 of the AFL's Chemical Workers Union scored another AFL victory here when it defeated a CIO affiliate in an NLRB election held to determine the bargaining agent for employes of the Portland Gas and Coke Company.

Despite the familiar raiding tactics employed by the CIO, the AFL group won out by a vote of 325 to 213, with 85 employes not voting. Of these 85, a sizeable majority were reported to favor the AFL.

The CIO claimed to represent a majority of the employes, but as the election results testify the claim was based upon little else than over enthusiasm. Typical of other CIO misrepresentations was the statement to company employes that the CIO represented millions of workers throughout the United States and Canada. What the CIO failed to include in that statement was the situation in the Portland area. There a recent survey disclosed AFL membership stands at 73,000 while the CIO has managed to scrape up only 5,000 members.

Truman Vetoes Social Security Bill Exempting Newsboys; OKs Tax Freeze

Washington, D. C.—President Truman wielded his "veto" pen on a bill passed by Congress providing exemption from social security coverage for certain vendors of newspapers.

Mr. Truman said there was "no justification" for amending the social security law to exempt such "bona fide" employes of publishers.

"It would establish a precedent for special exemption," the President declared. "We must not open our social security structure to piecemeal attack and to slow undermining."

Disapproving the measure which the AFL had opposed unsuccessfully prior to its passage, Mr. Truman said:

"It restricts and narrows coverage under our social security laws, while our objective should be to enlarge that coverage."

In another action involving the social security system, the President signed into law a bill freezing the social security tax at 1 percent for employers and employes until January 1, 1950.

The new law provides that the tax will be increased to 1½ percent on January 1, 1950, and to 2 percent on January 1, 1952.

Under the old law, the 1 percent rate would have jumped to 2½ percent next January 1 and to 3 percent on January 1, 1949.

M'Gowan Flays Republicans; Predicts More Militant Labor

Chicago.—President Charles J. MacGowan of the Boilermakers assured the delegates to the union's special conference that the Taft-Hartley law, as vicious as it is, cannot destroy the labor movement.

On the contrary, he predicted, it will stimulate the labor organizations to greater effort and make the labor movement more militant than it has been in years.

MacGowan told of his disillusionment with the Republican party and flayed the record of the 80th Congress under Republican control. He said:

"There was a time when I was naive enough to believe that, with the presence of such great statesmen as La Follette, Norris, Borah, Johnson, Frazier and others fighting to liberalize the Republican party, we had an excellent chance to succeed in that undertaking.

"But based upon the record of this Congress, I am prepared to assert that liberal thought and progressive action have not only been destroyed within that party, but that it has supinely become the willing instrumentality of every reactionary force in this country, to the extent that the leadership of the Republican party today is morally, intellectually and spiritually bankrupt."

The Boilermakers' leader warned, however, that the answer to the situation is not the formation of a new political party, because this would dissipate liberal strength and entrench reactionaries in public office.

The real remedy, he insisted, is still adherence to "the well-tested policy of 'elect your friends and punish your enemies,' but it should be done not merely with declarations, but with more hard work than ever before.

"We must determine that from now until 1948," he said, "every agency we can employ—among our own members, among farmers, small business men and right-thinking people generally—will be used to consolidate the real spirit of America and render a smashing verdict at the polls in 1948, so there can be no question as to what real mandate the American people have given their Congress."

Labor Dept. Reported 'Apprehensive' Over Provisions of Taft-Hartley Law

York, Pa.—John W. Gibson, Assistant Secretary of Labor, said that the Labor Department was "apprehensive" over the Taft-Hartley Labor Act.

He declared there was "a very real danger" that the law contained "elements which might be the forerunner of dire consequences."

It was the Labor Department's first official statement on the new law since its enactment on June 23, although Secretary Lewis B. Schwellenbach spoke out against many of its provisions when they were still pending in Congress.

Mr. Gibson's speech was for the summer industrial conference of the United Wallpaper Company. He had been invited to give an analysis of the new law, but he had told the sponsors of the conference beforehand that he would not attempt this. And tonight he said:

"The fact is, no comprehensive analysis exists, and the host of embryo analyses which have come from parties at interest are inclined to leave one in a state of bewilderment.

"I can tell you, however, that we in the Department of Labor, like many employers and leaders of the American labor movement, are apprehensive over some of the results which may come out of its administration."

Most of the law will be administered by the National Labor Relations Board. The Labor Department has only two or three duties under the act.

Mr. Gibson's objections appeared to be on the ground that the law puts the Government further into labor-management relationships.

Real Wages Lagging Despite Pay Raises

Washington, D. C.—Earnings of factory workers hit a new high in June of $48.91 a week, but in terms of "real wages" the workers are worse off than a year ago and in much poorer position than during the war, Department of Labor reports showed.

During the past 12 months, weekly earnings in manufacturing rose by less than 13 percent, while the official living cost index shot up 18 percent.

The gap is even greater compared to the peak wartime year of 1944. Weekly earnings then averaged $46.08 a week. "Take-home" pay now is only about 6 percent higher than the 1944 average, while living costs are 25 percent greater.

Thus, in terms of buying power, the earnings of factory workers are 19 percent below wartime levels.

Furthermore, the June "take-home" wage of industrial workers will buy only as much as $30 did back in 1939, the Department said.

UNION REPEALS RACIAL RULE

New York City.—The Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employes, AFL, has repealed regulations restricting Negroes to membership in local auxiliary lodges, Col. Charles Garside, chairman of the State Commission Against Discrimination, reported. New rules approved at the brotherhood's convention in Cincinnati last May abolish all racial rules in local membership.

AFL FLOUR MILL WORKERS RECEIVE 15-CENT INCREASE

Buffalo, N. Y.—The AFL's Flour Mill Workers numbering 2,600 workers negotiated a new agreement with five flour mills in this milling center.

Stanley J. Bauer, business agent of Local 21021 of the AFL Flour Mill Workers, said an agreement had been reached in a conference called by United States conciliator O. W. Rider.

Bauer said the agreement provided a general 15-cent hourly wage increase, six paid holidays, a 5-cent additional rise for top maintenance men and the inclusion of holiday time in computing overtime pay.

The last clause would provide pay for a 52-hour week if an employe worked a day overtime in a week in which he also had a holiday, as compared to the previous practice of paying for only 48 hours, Bauer explained.

CALIFORNIA WAGES UP 9%; COST OF LIVING JUMPS 18%

San Francisco.—Wages of factory workers in May were 9 percent higher than in the same month last year, according to a report of the California Department of Industrial Relations.

In the San Francisco Bay area average weekly earnings in manufacturing industries rose to $56.34.

The report points out, however, that the cost of living during the same period has jumped by 18 percent. Consequently, the real wages of California workers have declined in the past year.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

LABOR'S GOAL!
To Repeal
Taft-Hartley Law

WILLIAM GREEN, President
WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1947
GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

A LABOR DAY MESSAGE

By GEORGE MEANY

Secretary-Treasurer, American Federation of Labor

On this Labor Day of 1947, the 7,500,000 American working men and women who make up the American Federation of Labor as well as all other Americans who work for a living are face to face with a most serious situation.

We had felt justified in believing that the right of unions to exist and to function for the benefit of the working people of our nation had at last been conceded even by those who in years gone by were the most bitter enemies of trade unionism. Unfortunately, recent events have shown that these reactionaries still regard their lust for profits as entitled to much higher consideration than the welfare of the many millions of average Americans who work for wages.

GEORGE MEANY

All parts of the Taft-Hartley Act, passed by a Congress subservient to Big Business, have now become effective. This is a law which is vicious in the extreme. Under this law it becomes more difficult than ever before for the average trade union to secure necessary and just improvements in wages and working conditions for the membership it represents. In enacting this law over a Presidential veto, Congress has handed the unfair and unscrupulous employer deadly weapons to use against his employes and their organization.

Labor Day, 1947, might appropriately mark the beginning of organized labor's all-out campaign to marshal public opinion for the repeal of this oppressive statute at an early date. The sooner this law is removed from the books, the sooner the nation we love will resume its forward march as the standard-bearer of the free way of life.

And in this connection let it not be forgotten that vicious anti-labor legislation has also been enacted in a number of states. The struggle to wipe out these state laws aimed at labor's heart must also receive the fullest support of all fair-minded Americans, both those inside and those outside organized labor itself.

If the repeal of these anti-labor laws is to be accomplished, our fellow Americans on the farms and in the villages of our nation must be shown how disastrous for themselves as well as for trade unionists in the cities will be the ultimate effects of the anti-labor stand taken this year by their representatives in Congress. Even a casual analysis of the vote to override the veto of the Taft-Hartley Act promptly reveals that Big Business was strongly supported on this issue by Congressmen representing farm constituencies.

Today, with American-produced foodstuffs still being exported as well as consumed domestically at rates that break previous records, the American farmer is prosperous. We hope that he will always be prosperous. But exports will soon diminish and the time will again come, as after World War I, when the farmer will be wholly dependent upon the domestic market. In other words, he will be dependent upon the purchasing power of the millions of workers in the cities here at home. All the tycoons of Big Business combined, despite their great wealth, are not able to consume more than a most insignificant fraction of the farmers' output.

It is clearly to the farmer's personal economic interest, then, to see to it that America's industrial wage-earners obtain good pay for their toil. The suffering of our farmers during the great depression, which resulted directly from the lack of purchasing power among working people in the cities, demonstrated the interrelationship between the well-being of the farmer and the well-being of labor. It is regrettable that some farmers have forgotten this interrelationship.

If the Taft-Hartley Act remains on the statute books, employers will have many tools ready to hand with which to hammer down the wages of labor. Lower wages spell reduced purchasing power and reduced purchasing power for labor inevitably spells economic disaster for the farmer once conditions return to normal.

Congressmen from the rural districts have therefore done their constituents a grave disservice by passing the Taft-Hartley Act. Anti-labor propaganda disseminated among the farmers by Big Business during the past few years has played an important part in this picture. Now it is up to labor to get busy and bring the truth to the farmers, so that they will join with us in the fight to repeal a statute which potentially is as disastrous for farmers as for workers.

If the Taft-Hartley Act remains law, it will by the very nature of its provisions drive American workers more and more into the political field. Up to now, American labor has been reluctant to emulate the workers of other nations by moving on from the economic to the political arena. Throughout its long existence the American Federation of Labor has maintained itself as a strictly non-partisan movement. The passage of the Taft-Hartley Act, with its oppressive provisions, inevitably raises the question as to whether, in order to protect the future of American wage-earners, this basic position must not now be altered.

During the coming months we must do more than ever before to get American labor's story across to all the people of our nation. It is a great story. Had it not been for the American labor movement, its building of our nation, its fight for free public schools, its struggle for higher wages, shorter hours and civilized working conditions, its vital contributions to victory in two world wars, our country would not now occupy its preeminent position and our people would not now enjoy a standard of living unapproached by any other people in all history.

Let us be quite candid. We have done more in recent years to inform the public weal than we did in years long past. Nevertheless, what we have done has been far from enough. Nothing will more effectively safeguard the well-being of all of us who must work in order to live than a well-conceived, constantly functioning, comprehensive program of education of the American people as a whole relative to labor's constructive and beneficial policies, principles and objectives.

The anti-labor fabrications of Big Business and the faithful servants of Big Business in newspaper offices and legislative halls must be exposed. Anti-labor propaganda must be combated and its effects overcome.

The time has come for organized labor to take the offensive in this sphere. We can and must do an effective educational job among all sections of our population. And if we do, we may look forward with much confidence to the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act.

For Labor Day Editions:

The Challenge; Our Answer–Education

By JOHN D. CONNORS, Director Workers Education Bureau of America

Labor Day, 1947, finds our organized labor movement confronted with one of its greatest challenges. The Taft-Hartley Bill, passed over the President's veto, has brought us face to face with a grave crisis. We must study how best to secure public recognition of the inequities and contradictions in the act and thus bring about its eventual repeal or drastic amendment.

This legislation points up as never before how important is a continuing program of workers' education if the American labor movement is to meet the demands made upon it for understanding labor's underlying theories and policies and how to put them into practice for the best good of all. Labor must learn also that it has a responsibility to acquaint the general public with those theories and policies so that an understanding and wider sympathy with organized labor may develop which will eventually make impossible such biased legislation as the Taft-Hartley Act.

The American labor movement is now and always has been fundamentally sound, but it needs education and more education for its leadership and general membership. If well informed, labor will think intelligently, act intelligently, and vote intelligently. Only thus will labor measure up to its inherent capabilities and the glorious contributions of its pioneers which this day honors. Only thus can labor convince those outside its ranks that it is a responsible part of the American community.

On this Labor Day let us firmly resolve to educate ourselves to this end, and thus help to achieve harmonious and peaceful industrial relations and so insure the preservation and extension of true democracy.

SUPPLY OF CANNED GOODS SEEN 5% LOWER NEXT YEAR

Washington, D. C.—The Nation's total supply of 12 major canned fruits and vegetables in the 1947-48 season probably will run about 5 percent less than a year ago, the Department of Commerce announced. This includes both the new pack and the carryover from last year.

Tobin Scores New Law, 'Red' Activities; Reports Membership Gain to Teamsters

San Francisco.—The International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the largest AFL affiliate with a membership of 900,000, plunged into a backlog of work at its convention here, the first held since 1940.

Daniel J. Tobin, general president of the union for 41 years, delivered a ringing address to the opening session in which he urged a sustained drive to repeal the Taft-Hartley law and a constant battle against the influence and activities of Communist agents seeking to disrupt the labor movement.

In his attack upon the Taft-Hartley law, Mr. Tobin warned that although he had always opposed the general strike, "because it is cruel to break contracts with 99 employers to punish one employer," he might be "compelled to change" his views as a result of the new labor legislation.

"You can goad a man or a nation only so long," he said. "The teamsters have not one man on strike in the State of California or in the nation. What I'm afraid of, and I'm not a pessimist, is that this new law will increase our strikes. Men will not be chained to their posts when they feel in their conscience they are justified in striking.

"I happen to have been fighting jurisdictional disputes since the first day I came into office and I happen to know you cannot settle jurisdictional disputes by law."

Commenting upon the formation of a third political party in sympathy with labor's aims, Mr. Tobin said:

"There is no hope for a third party until this labor movement in America is cemented into one organization. In my personal judgment, 95 percent of the trade unionists of America want one organization. Let me say that if we had had one organization of labor, the Taft-Hartley Bill would never have become law."

Mr. Tobin charged some CIO leaders with efforts to block AFL-CIO unity although the AFL had made concessions and reasonable offers in attempts to bring about organizational unity between the two labor groups.

He charged Communist agents were "working night and day to help destroy the labor movement of America and to bring about strikes which cause discontent and hatred" and "of laying the foundation for revolution."

In his formal report to the convention Mr. Tobin reported a paid-up membership of "900,000 or better" and a treasury of "around $17,000,000" compared with corresponding figures of 450,000 and $6,000,000 seven years ago. He said the union had only scratched the surface in organizing workers within its jurisdiction.

In other convention actions a representative of trucking employers advocated the formation of a country-wide labor-management committee to "combat the lawyers holiday which is seemingly just ahead of us" as a result of the Taft-Hartley law. Mr. Tobin advised the employer representative, Mr. Philip A. Smith, president of the National Conference of Local Cartage Operators, that his proposal would receive serious consideration by the teamsters.

Joseph A. Padway, AFL General Counsel, presented an analysis of the Taft-Hartley law and cautioned the teamsters against the belief that they could violate the law "with impunity." "If you do," he warned, "you will be out of business as a union. The anti-closed shop measures are a tragic reality."

A move on the part of the convention to increase Mr. Tobin's $30,000 salary was thwarted by Tobin himself when he said he would not seek re-election if the increase were put through.

Article Gives Highlights On Swedish Labor Group

New York City.—The Swedish organized labor movement is comparatively larger than ours, is more centralized, and is but one of four workers' movements.

These are the conclusions reached by Arnold S. Zander, president of the AFL's State, County, and Municipal Employees Union, in the second of six articles prepared for the Workers Education Bureau of America on the general topic, "Sweden: Laboratory in Economic Democracy."

Portions of Mr. Zander's article, which is devoted chiefly to a comparison between the Swedish labor movement and trade union organization in the United States, are as follows:

"There are approximately one and one-half million organized workers in Sweden. To be as well organized in proportion to population we should need to have twenty-five million members.

"In Sweden there is one general movement except for a structural division between what they call workers and employes—what we might call workers and white collar workers.

"One often hears it said that Sweden is small and homogeneous and therefore can not be compared with our country. The fact remains that workers are far better organized in Sweden and their practices are adaptable. Certainly, in our country we should have a united labor movement. Swedish labor has more authority in its central organization. We should have. They give over-all consideration to other matters affecting workers than just legislation. We could too.

"One marked difference between Sweden and the United States is that in Sweden there is not only an organized labor movement, but three other workers' movements. The common people in Sweden are organized in trade unions, consumer cooperatives, the workers' education association, and a political organization.

"Perhaps because there are several workers' movements one gets the feeling that not only is their trade union movement tremendously important, but that it is part of something still larger and generally inclusive which assures progressive development on a very wide front.

"Generally, membership in unions in Sweden is voluntary, yet the membership problem has been substantially solved. In one union after another I found that the organizing job is practically finished.

"It is the position of Swedish labor that action on the part of one union which would affect workers in other organizations must be cleared through the central organization. The central federation is much better financed than is our American Federation of Labor. Defense funds are maintained which can be used in strikes or in case of other major difficulty in any affiliated organization.

"One interesting phenomenon is that Swedish labor is jealous of its independence and resists government interference. Trade unionists in Sweden favor government ownership of monopoly businesses. They take the position that such businesses are not part of the competitive enterprise system and therefore should not be privately owned. But they want government to stop at that point and not interfere with labor relations in private competitive enterprise. They have been successful in this."

Philadelphia Garment Workers Gain New Contract, Better Health Benefits

Philadelphia. — Samuel Otto, manager of the Philadelphia Dress Joint Board, ILGWU, announced new gains for garment workers in the Philadelphia area.

An agreement setting new high standards in wages and working conditions of the belt and suspender industry was reached with the Pioneer Suspender Company, one of the country's largest manufacturers.

Chief gains for the 300 workers are a ten percent general increase in wages, reduction of the work week from 40 hours to 37½ and two additional paid holidays, bringing the total to six.

Otto pointed to the agreement as proof that "where employers and the workers' representatives are determined to arrive at just and amicable composition of demands arising out of the employer-employe relationship, no government interference or harmful legislative restriction on labor such as the Taft-Hartley Act are necessary or desirable."

In addition to the new contract, Otto announced major increases in sick benefits, ranging up to 87½ percent, in accordance with a provision of the union's Health Insurance Fund. The increases are effective on October 1.

Weekly sick benefit payments are increased 20 percent from $10 a week for 10 weeks to $12 a week for the same period. Hospitalization benefits are increased 87½ percent from $2 a day for twelve days to $3 a day for 15 days.

In addition, a number of operations formerly not compensated for are added to the surgical benefit list. They cover cataracts, varicose veins, tonsils and hemorroids.

Otto pointed out that benefits have been increased steadily from the original schedule of $8 a week for a maximum of 8 weeks since establishment of the fund in February, 1943. The union is sole administrator of the fund, maintained under terms of the agreement with the Philadelphia Waist & Dress Manufacturers Association by employers' contributions of 4½ percent of their payroll. A sum equivalent to 2 percent of the payroll is set aside for vacation payments to the city's 12,000 workers covered by the fund.

Truman OK's Price Probe; NAM 'Insulted' By Charge

Cost of Living Soars Again; Business Gets Record Profits

Washington, D. C.—Like the thermometer responding to a heat wave, the cost of living soared again as the appetite of Big Business for profits, and more profits, remained insatiable.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported the consumers' price index for June 15th stood at 157.1 for a record high, eclipsing the former level scored in March.

Retail prices of living essentials in mid-June were 18 percent higher than a year ago, and 59 percent higher than the August 1939 level.

It is doubly discouraging to wage earners to realize that this record does not include increases likely to result from the new rent control law foisted upon them by the 80th Congress. Nor does it reveal a true picture of the situation today. Because of the time lag required for the gathering of the material and analysis thereof prior to publication, the price index does not reflect the rising food and meat prices noticed especially during the last month.

What about profits? The answer may be found in the magazine, "Time" owned by a millionaire and itself a business institution.

"Time" was amazingly frank. It said the truth about profits is stranger than fiction. Earnings of corporations, it claimed, "had almost reached the realm of fable."

On the basis of figures for the first six months of 1947, corporations were "making $33,000 a minute," the magazine pointed out. During that period, aggregate profits ran at an annual rate of $29 billion before taxes, up $8 billion over 1946, and of $17.4 billion after taxes, up 28 percent above 1946.

"Increases of 100 percent to 300 percent were not uncommon," declared "Time."

Attorney General Clark Seeks Reasons for High Prices

Washington, D. C.—President Truman expressed approval of the investigation planned by Attorney General Tom C. Clark to determine whether business interests are responsible for conspiring to increase prices of food, clothing, and housing.

The Attorney General announced that a nation-wide investigation would be launched under the direction of John F. Sonnett, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the anti-trust division in the Department of Justice.

Mr. Clark threatened vigorous prosecution of any profiteers found to have violated the anti-trust laws. Jail terms and heavy fines will be asked of the courts, he added. Mr. Clark said:

"In his state of the Union message in January, President Truman pointed out to the Congress that, despite half a century of anti-trust law enforcement, one of the gravest threats to our welfare lay in the increasing concentration of power in the hands of a small number of giant organizations, and that today we find that to a greater extent than ever before whole industries are dominated by one or a few large organizations which can restrict production in the interest of higher profits and thus reduce employment and purchasing power."

Reaction to the investigation was mixed, with the general opinion being that the inquiry would only reveal cases in which business had profited beyond normal margins. Little hope was expressed that the probe would drive prices down.

President Truman, who repeatedly asked for cooperative efforts on the part of business to reduce the cost of living, inclined to the belief that the investigation would not produce that desired result. In endorsing the investigation, however, he said he held high hopes for the inquiry.

The National Association of Manufacturers came through with the expected reaction. It wailed and moaned that Clark's statement was a blow at all industry which would do great harm to the country.

It took the stand that only some prices are out of line, but only in isolated cases. It said of the proposed investigation:

"Such an attempt is dangerous because it tends to destroy confidence in our productive system when mutual trust is essential if we are to weather the economic storms we face here and abroad."

Other business spokesmen sensibly and resolutely refused to swallow the NAM's propaganda line. Mostly they said their own skirts were clean and they would be glad to have the price situation publicly aired.

Many of them directed their comments to the rising costs of raw materials and suggested the investigation cover this segment of the price picture.

The statement of Paul S. Willis, president of the Grocery Manufacturers of America, is indicative of the stand taken by some business groups, as opposed to the outcry made by the NAM. He said:

"All reputable food and grocery manufacturers will welcome the price probe, if it will serve the purpose of getting the real facts before the American people. We do not believe investigation will reveal attempts on the part of the industry to maintain prices, but rather an extended effort to forestall price advances justified by costs."

Labor-Management Cooperation Urged In Campaign to Increase Productivity

Washington, D. C.—The Labor Committee of the National Planning Association, a private non-profit organization, called for greater cooperation between labor and management to increase the productive efficiency of the nation.

The statement, signed by 33 prominent labor officials, emphasized the need for increased productivity which is "the source of our economic progress and increasing wellbeing."

"Workers increasingly realize that high wages are made possible and continuation of their rising trend can be insured only by the high and increasing productive efficiency of our economy; businessmen increasingly realize that the answer to shrinking profits lies not in wage cutting, but in the increase of productivity."

The report cited the steady increase in productivity which has been achieved over the past 50 years and noted that there is now under way a strong upturn which may equal or exceed the 10 percent productivity increase experienced for three successive years after the first World War. The statement said:

"Our concern today must be to reinforce the current rise and to carry it forward. Government can provide effective aid through policies that head off depression and give business and labor freedom from fear of bankruptcy and unemployment—freedom therefore from constraint to protect markets and jobs by restrictive practices. Labor can make effective contributions—as our experience in the war demonstrated—if the setting is provided and management genuinely seeks labor's participation. But it is management that must lead the way in achieving increased productivity. This is indeed management's job; questions of efficiency lie at the very core of managing a business.

"We urge managements everywhere in American industry to invite the unions they deal with to sit down with them and explore how to eliminate inefficiency in production and distribution. We are confident that such invitations, issued in good faith, will evoke a surprisingly satisfactory response from the unions. Our confidence, we may add, is not based on theory, but is rooted in concrete examples of successful teamwork between management and unions."

While recognizing that methods used to promote increased productivity will vary from industry to industry and plant to plant, the labor spokesmen laid down two basic principles which must be recognized. They said:

"The first of these is that workers must have assurance that the cards are not being stacked against them. They must have no ground to feel that the cost accounts are being loaded with dubious items. Suspicion on this score—no matter how petty the questioned items may be in dollar terms—must be avoided.

"The second principle is that the passing on of the benefits of increased productivity must be equitable and reasonably clear and certain. As we have said, productivity grows from many sources and neither management nor labor nor stockholders nor the consuming public has an exclusive claim to its benefits. Workers want higher productivity to mean higher wages and lower prices. They want management and stockholders to get their fair shares, too. But they are not interested in stepping up productivity if the entire benefits that result are to go to increase profits which may already be ample."

Included among the signers of the statement for the AFL were Marion H. Hedges, Director of Research for the Electrical Workers and vice-chairman of the NPA's Labor Committee; James A. Brownlow, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL's Metal Trades Department; Nelson H. Cruikshank, Director of Social Insurance Activities for the AFL; Frank Fenton, the AFL's Director of Organization; Boris Shishkin, AFL Economist; and Florence C. Thorne, Director of Research for the AFL.

Freedom of Association Step Praised; ILO Urged to Adopt Other Basic Rights

New York City. — The American Federation of Labor commended the International Labor Conference for its unanimous adoption of resolutions guaranteeing to labor and employers the right of freedom of association without prior government authority or interference.

Speaking before the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, Miss Tony Sender, AFL representative, said the action taken "has justified the confidence we have put in the International Labor Organization."

Referring to the AFL's resolution on Trade Union Rights submitted to the United Nations and passed on to the ILO as a specialized agency of UN, Miss Sender urged prompt action by the ILO in considering additional world labor problems. She said:

"We want to stress at this point that we are looking forward to the promised second stage in the action; namely, not only on the exercise of the right of freedom of association without fear of intimidation, coercion or restraint from any source, but also with regard to collective agreements, conciliation and arbitration.

"Although we understand that the ILO is carrying on its activity in a systematic way and only after thorough preparation, we wish that it will find it possible to take up in due time also those points of our resolution referred to it dealing with the right to strike, the right of petitioning parliament, the workers' right to move from one part of the country to another within the confines of the national borders, as well as their right to migrate outside the national boundaries. We wish to have guaranteed the right of the worker to stay on the job or to abandon it in accordance with his own decision, without coercion or interference. And, finally, but not less important, the workers in every part of the world ought to be protected against conditions of slave labor.

"We hope that the ILO will have in mind that quick action on these problems is essential in the interest of the protection of labor's basic rights. Such action can only strengthen this specialized agency whose existence and effective functioning is indispensable for the welfare of the workers of the world.

"We trust that the ILO will follow up its decisions once conventions and/or recommendations have been adopted, by asking the governments to report on the measures taken in law and in practice, for the realization of these decisions."

$141,175 AWARD IN MINE BLAST

West Frankfort, Ill.—The Illinois Industrial Commission awarded benefits totaling $141,175 to dependents of the 27 miners who lost their lives on July 24 in an explosion at Old Ben Mine No. 8.

Political Activity Is Urged for AFRA

New York City.—Enactment of the Taft-Hartley law is going to force the nation's radio actors to "change their thinking" and engage in political activity to assure the measure's repeal, George Heller, national executive secretary of the American Federation of Radio Artists asserted. He spoke at the opening of the federation's annual convention in the Hotel Astor.

"AFRA, like many another union, has in the past taken the stand that as a labor organization we should concern ourself solely with wages and working conditions, and that political matters are outside of our scope," Mr. Heller said.

"After the experience of the past few months we realize we have to expand that point of view. It is no longer valid.

"Whether we like it or not, AFRA is now going to have to become interested in political matters. We are being forced to this position by the march of events. There is no longer any hard and fast line of division between politics and AFRA business.

"And we may as well realize that if we do not want to be stripped of our rights as working people, we will have to exert our utmost effort to preserve our union by working in close cooperation with the American Federation of Labor in its campaign to repeal the Taft-Hartley law."

Mr. Heller also predicted that the Taft-Hartley law would be an important factor in spurring efforts toward eventual merger of the radio actors organization and other performer groups.